

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12 T-03 OMB-01 RSR-01 SAJ-01 /119 W
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R 191350 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7290

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2973

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, EG, XF

SUBJ: ARAB LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE IN MOSCOW

1. ARAB LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE TAHSEEN BASHIR, (IN MOSCOW AS "OBSERVER" ATTENDING THREE DAY PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR WORLD CONGRESS OF PEACE FORCES TO BE HELD HERE NEXT FALL) CONTACTED US ON MARCH 18 TO CONVEY DEEP PESSIMISM OVER CHANCES FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST UNLESS U. S. ADOPTS MORE "BALANCED" POSITION. DURING PRIVATE MEETING WITH EMBOFF (INITIATED BY LOCAL AL AHRAH REPRESENTATIVE, APPARENTLY AT BASHIR'S REQUEST) BASHIR STRESSED THAT NO EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO COMPROMISE ON TERRITORIAL ISSUES, AND THAT U. S. FAILURE TO PRESS FOR COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB TERRITORIES-- SPECIFICALLY EGYPTIAN TERRITORY-- BLOCKED ANY POSSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

2. BASHIR ASSERTED THAT TALKS WITH ISRAELIS ARE USELESS WITHOUT CLEAR INDICATION OF U. S. BACKING FOR EGYPTIAN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. HE POINTED TO KING HUSSEIN'S FAILURE TO ACHIEVE
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ANYTHING DESPITE NUMEROUS CONTACTS WITH ISREELIS, AND SAID JORDANIAN EXPERIENCE UNDERScored FUTILITY OF NEGOTIATING WITH AN ISRAEL WHOSE POSITION " BECOMES HARDER WITH EACH PASSING DAY." BASHIR ALSO REJECTED " PARTIAL" OR " INTERIM" AGREEMENTS NOT LINKED SUITABLY TO OVERALL SETTLEMENT, AND LABELED AS " NON- STARTER" WASHINGTON' S CANAL OPENING APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO BASHIR, U. S. FAILURE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING NEW IN REASONABLY NEAR FUTURE COULD FORCE A FRUSTRATED EGYPT INTO SOME KIND OF MILITARY ADVENTURE. INTERNAL PRESSURES ARE BUILDING UP IN EGYPT, HE SAID, AND NO ONE SHOULD BE SURPRISED IF " NO PEACE, NO WAR" SITUATION LED TO TAKEOVER IN CAIRO AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES BY RADICAL ELEMENTS WHOSE POLICIES WOULD BE MOST DETRIMENTAL TO U. S. AND OTHER WESTERN INTERESTS, SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO OIL.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE DETECT NO NEW ELEMENTS IN BASHIR PRESENTATION, WE ARE REPORTING CONTACT BECAUSE OF RANKING POSITION BASHIR HAS HELD IN EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, AND BECAUSE MEETING WAS INITIATED BY EGYPTIAN SIDE. BASHIR SAID HE PLANNED DEPART MOSCOW FOR ROME MARCH 19 WHERE HE WILL SPEND SEVERAL DAYS " LECTURING" BEFORE RETURNING TO CAIRO.
DUBS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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